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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 10 JULY 1961

SUBJECT Sera and Vaccines in the DDR

50X1-HUM

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCL'S.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF INFO:
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Accompanying the attached report are three Appendices. Appendix A is a list of sera made by the Acid-Serum-Institut in Dessau and Weissensee. Appendix B is a list of sera made by the Sachsisches Serum Werk A.G., Dresden, and Appendix C is a list of sera produced by the Impfstoffwerk, Schoneweide. The abbreviation OP in the Appendices means Original Packing (packing).

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1. Administrative Control

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Production of sera and vaccines in the DDR is controlled by:

- (a) Ministry of Health. (Hygiene Inspection Dept. and Dept. H5-Apotheken und Arzneimittelwesen).

(i) Functions. Planning for internal DDR needs. Building of a reserve of sera and vaccines for epidemics and emergencies. Technical supervision of production. Control over the import of sera. Execution or ordering of vaccination or inoculation programmes.

(ii) Personalities (α) Hygiene Inspection Dept:

Head: Prof. Dr. WALTHER

Head of Abtg. Dauchenbekämpfung:

Frau Dr. R. KERSTEN

Ortshygiene: Prof. Dr. BREKENFELD

Dr. HESS

Dr. FARCHMIN

(β) Abtg. H5

Head: BAUMANN (pro tem.)
SANDER

- (b) Ministry for Heavy Industry (KI Chemie, Abtg. Pharmazie)

(i) Functions. Execution of production programmes. Has some responsibility also for the scientific interests of the VEBs which it controls, either directly (like JUMPIARM) or through VVB PHARMA.

(ii) Personalities.

Head of KI Chemie: Prof. Dr. BARTSCH

Deputy: Dr. SCHAEFFERS

Head of Abtg. Pharmazie:

Frau KRONER (pro tem.)

- (c) State Planning Commission. (Abtg. Chemie)

(i) Functions. Co-ordination of production. Liaison with planning officials of the Peoples' Democracies (Council for Mutual Economic Aid).

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(ii) Personalities

Head of Abtg. Chemie: LIEBICH (pro tem.)

- (a) State Planning Commission - State Secretariat for Materials Supply. (Abtg. Chemie - Pharmazie)

Functions. Provision of raw materials to the DDR pharmaceutical industry and building of reserves of these materials.

2. Production of Sera and Vaccines

The only large production centres in the DDR are:-

- (a) Asid-Serum-Institut, DESSAU, Seminarplatz 3 (VVB PHARMA)
- (b) Asid-Serum-Institut, BERLIN-WEISSENSEE,
Grosse Seestra. 4. (VVB PHARMA)
- (c) Sachsisches Serum Werk AG, DRESDEN
- (d) Impstoffwerk Schöneweide, BERLIN-NIEDERSCHÖNEWEIDE
- (e) Jenapharm, JENA

Apart from the above there are only very small individual laboratories, each producing perhaps a single serum.

3. Asid-Serum, DESSAU

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- (b) Production of sera is supervised by Dr. HEINRICH, a vet.
- (c) Specialists like Prof. J. KATHE of ROSTOCK, Dr. R. KERSTEN and Prof. WILTHIER have always considered this works to be badly organised and conducted. Lack of qualified technicians has been one great difficulty.
- (d) The products of the works are tested at RIEMS by Prof. ROHRER's station there.
- (e) The works were having great difficulty in 1951, attributable to the lack of specialists, in the production of snake-bite serum, rabies serum (Tollwut), highly concentrated sera and sera with low albumen contents.
- (f) In 1950 and the first half of 1951 surplus quantities of sera were sent to the "Aid for KOREA Committee" (Hilfe fürs Schaus-KOREA). These included preparations against cholera, typhus, diphtheria, spotted fever (Fleckfieber), tetanus and gas gangrene (Gasbrand).

4. Asid-Serum, WEISSENSEE

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5. Sachsenisches Serum Werk AG, DRESDEN

- (a) This is still a private concern.

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(c) Personalities.

Director: Herr BETHGE
 Chief Scientist: Dr. REICHARDT
 Dr. BECKER

BERLIN Representative:
 Dr. MEYER-UMHÖFER.

6. Impfstoffwerk Schoeneweide

(a) This is still a private concern.

(b) [redacted]

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(c) Director: Dr. BELIAN, son-in-law of the above BETHGE.

7. JENAPHARM, JENA

The only serum or vaccine produced here is BCG.

8. MÜHLHAUSEN Institute

- (a) It was at one time planned by the DDR authorities to convert the former Zentrale Stelle für Hygiene in MÜHLHAUSEN into a "Robert Koch Institute". The buildings were visited by Prof. WILTHER of the Ministry of Health. He reported adversely on the plan and it has now been shelved.
- (b) Prof. BLAUROCK is now working in MÜHLHAUSEN on the normal tasks of the Zentrale Stelle f. Hygiene - general Ortshygiene and serological research and diagnosis.

9. Serum Testing Institutes in the DDR

- (a) Veterinary preparations are tested after production on the island of RIEMS: BCG (and also, incidentally, penicillin) are tested by Prof. J. KATHE in ROSTOCK.
- (b) Apart from these, the testing and standardisation of sera and vaccines after production is the greatest problem for the DDR in this field. The DDR is now totally dependent on the Robert Koch Institute, BERLIN-DAHLEM and the Paul-Ehrlich Institutes in FRANKFURT/Main and MARBURG.
- (c) To obviate this difficulty, a new Central Serum Testing Institute for the DDR is being built in BERLIN (Russian Sector), Wollankstrasse. This is not yet ready.
- (d) It is believed in the DDR that the head of this new Testing Institute will be Dr. SORGENTREI, now at the Zentrale Stelle f. Hygiene, BAUTZEN, Paul-Neck Str 123. He is going on a course to PRAGUE, CSR, before taking charge of the new Institute.

10. Russian interest in DDR Serum production

- (a) This interest was very great in 1948 and 1949. It seemed to the Germans who liaised with the Russians at KARLSHOFST on this matter, however, that their interest was only in the nationalisation of the DDR production centres.

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- (b) The Russians have not been interested in this field since 1949, although they have always kept themselves informed, through the Ministry of Health, of the epidemic position in the DDR.

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